

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 33-36 have been added. Claim 33 corresponds to original claims 1, 2, 3 and 6. Claim 34 contains limitations from original claims 4 and 5. Claim 35 corresponds to original claims 1, 2, 4 and 7. Claim 36 corresponds to original claims 1, 2, 5 and 8.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,404) in view of Gavarini (Pub No. 2006/0184430). These rejections are moot given that these claims have been canceled. However, Applicant has the following comments relative to the new claims.

Each of the new claims contains:

audit information service means, when there is a **provision request for audit information** that has specified said identifier of electronic commerce transaction entity, for extracting said audit result recorded to be associated with the corresponding identifier from said cumulative estimation control means so as to provide the extracted audit result as audit information.

The Examiner argues that various portions of Schneider disclose this limitation (Abstract, col. 4:1-26, fig. 3, col. 5:41-55, col. 10:16-61 and claim 4); however, the Examiner does not explain how these portions meet the detailed claim limitations. In particular, Applicant believes that there is no disclosure or suggestion of an audit information service means with provisioning, which treats that matter in the future.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

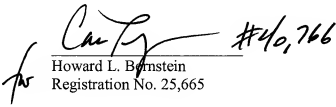
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